

Indian Valley Fire Department, July 2024

Fire Chiefs Report, Bob Orange

As is standard practice, report period consisted of weekly training/meetings on Tuesday evenings alternating between Greenville and Taylorsville. Training was also held on a Saturday at Genesee Station operating the ex-CalFire Engine stationed there. A leak was discovered in the plumbing for a 2,500-gallon water storage tank at that station and will be repaired.

Met with NST Engineering in Susanville at their office. Made changes to the design incorporating ideas learned from the Station Design Conference in Phoenix. Final draft blueprints will be submitted to the Board.

Utilized the labor of AmeriCorp workers in the FD. Cleaned Taylorsville fire station and reorganized. Removed the surplus SCBA's to North Arm Station. Also taught them how to don and use the SCBA's. Washed dirty fire hose used in past fires using the USFS hose wash rack in Greenville. Hose was then rolled up and taken to Genesee fire station where it was stored in hose racks. The workers ranged in age from 17-26. Consisted of 7 females and 1 male supervised by Dan Litchfield.

Participated in the July 4th Parade in Taylorsville. Supervisor Kevin Goss rode in #7662 the Hummer. Had five (5) apparatuses in the parade which were all thoroughly washed & cleaned. The rescue Hummer, two Type III Wildland Engines and two Type I Structure Engines. Took away a ribbon for 2nd Place. The IVFD continued to adhere to the policy of using NO air horns or sirens during the parade in respect to possibly bolting any of the many dozens of horses in and around the parade area. This also includes a reverence to not scaring babies or toddlers. Crescent Mills FD however did use their sirens and air horns.

The IVFD washed down all of the bleachers the evening before the July 4th Rodeo in Taylorsville utilizing our water tender.

Picked up donated commercial truck tires from the USFS that fit several of our Engines.

Responded to one major wildland fire with USFS at Round Valley Lake. USFS had two Engines and a helicopter. IVFD responded with the 4WD Engine and water tender from Taylorsville. We participated in the initial attack helping with progressive hose lays and supplied water to the USFS Engine pumping the fire.

Held a major training exercise at Greenville High School. Deployed a 3,000-gallon portable water tank in the parking lot. Supplied water to the tank with tender 7632. From it we practiced drafting and pumping from it utilizing three Engines- 7662, 7671 & 7672; the wildland Engines from Gville, Tville and Genesee. Retired CalFire Battalion Chief Joe Waterman assisted us.

During the exercise learned of various small repairs that need to be performed and equipment that needs to be obtained. New 2 ½" suction hose and foot valve/strainer is needed for #7672 and it has been ordered. Also needed are three 25' sections of 1 ½" fire hose for mobile initial attack lines which have also been ordered.

At the last training basically a dress rehearsal was held for donning all protective wildland gear. Inspection was made to ensure the volunteers have all their PPE needed. Fire fighters now have two pairs of fire shirts and pants each in addition to packs, helmets, gloves, shrouds, helmet lights, radio harness, etc. All have approved NFPA wildland fire boots that fit provided by the IVCSO. All gear we are using is what the USFS firefighters use and is approved by that agency. Still need to obtain a couple of gear bags and a couple of extra nomex pants but basically everyone is fully equipped with wildland PPE including multichannel portable radios. This includes new firefighters Sam Brown and Travis Goings.

Another new volunteer firefighter has been recruited and will be joining. In his youth was a firefighter with the USFS based at Gansner Bar Station and is currently a logging truck driver for Sierra Pacific. Lives in North Arm of Indian Valley. His name is PJ Rogers and his brother Taylor is currently a volunteer.

Taylorville Station is still undergoing renovation. The toilet has been installed along with the new stove and fridge. Waiting for the kitchenette counter, sink and cabinets to be installed along with the sink for the bathroom & LED ceiling lights to be installed. Electrical work is still on the schedule too.

Maintenance work and numerous small repairs continue on all apparatuses. It will always be a never-ending component of the FD....

I feel it must also be mentioned the Facebook posts this past month of Crescent Mills FD Board member and firefighter Adam Wangsgard in regards to LAFCO and IVCSO. This includes the "drawing of arms" comment in opposition to discussions and actions being contemplated. This does not include texts also sent to me as fire chief by him personally.